

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2098

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13067

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, NATO, GW, MPOL

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH
TROOPS FROM GERMANY

1. GERMAN PRESS REPORTS ON AUG. 12 AND 13 DATELINED
PARIS HAVE PICKED UP THE STORY FROM THE FRENCH WEEKLY
NEWS MAGAZINE "LE POINT" REGARDING ALLEGED FRENCH PLANS
TO WITHDRAW A PORTION OF THEIR TROOPS PRESENTLY
STATIONED IN THE FRG. THE "LE POINT" ARTICLE INDICATED
THAT SUCH FORCES WOULD BE REDUCED BY 1/3 DOWN TO A LEVEL
OF 20,000. (COMMENT: ONE OF THESE FIGURES MUST BE
WRONG. A 1/3 REDUCTION FROM THE CURRENT FORCE LEVEL OF
APPROXIMATELY 50,000 WOULD LEAVE A FORCE OF AROUND
34,000). THE ARTICLES CONTINUED THAT THE FRENCH
DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD FORMALLY DENIED THE REPORT.

2. THE FMOD IS NOW SEEKING TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION.
THE GERMAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN PARIS HAS REPORTED
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BASICALLY WHAT WAS CONTAINED IN THE "LE POINT" ARTICLE

AND IS TRYING TO DEVELOP MORE INFORMATION. THIS AFTER-
NOON THE GERMANS PLAN TO SEND ONE OF THEIR GENERALS TO
DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH THE SECOND FRENCH CORPS
COMMANDER IN BADEN-BADEN. HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT
SANGUINE THAT THE FRENCH GENERAL THERE WILL BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE MUCH MORE INFORMATION.

3. A SENIOR FMOD OFFICIAL POINTED OUT TO US WHAT
BISMARCK WAS REPUTED TO HAVE SAID ABOUT RUMORS, I.E.
HE ONLY BELIEVED THEM AFTER THEY HAD BEEN DENIED. THIS
SEEMS TO CHARACTERIZE THE GERMAN ATTITUDE AT THE FMOD.

THE GERMANS ARE AWARE OF FRENCH PLANS TO REORGAN-
IZE AND TO STREAMLINE THEIR FORCES WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE
FORMATION OF A THIRD CORPS. SHOULD SUCH A CORPS BE
ACTIVATED, THE GERMANS WOULD EXPECT DRAWDOWNS FROM
OTHER UNITS, WITH THE FRENCH FORCES IN THE FRG ALSO
ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH PRUNING. THUS, THE GERMANS ARE
REVIEWING THE 1967 FRG-FRANCE TROOP STATIONING AGREEMENT
TO DETERMINE WHAT FORMAL NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE, IF ANY'
CONCERNING A CHANGE IN FORCE LEVELS IS CONTAINED
THEREIN.
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